

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 9 being the independent claims.

Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,720,897. Applicant respectfully traverses. However, in furtherance of prosecution, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321 to U.S. Pat. No. 6,720,897. Applicants thus submit that the rejection of claims 8 and 9 is now moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 are respectfully requested.

Other Matters

Although the Office Action Summary listed claims 1-15 as being rejected, the Examiner did not address claims 1-7 and 10-15 in the Detailed Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner either present reasons for rejection or reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1-7 and 10-15.

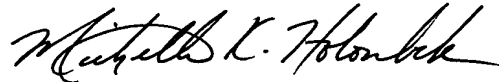
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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